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## OUR CENTENARY

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PERHAPS we should say “ Centennial,” because that implies a celebration; but “ Centenary ” signifies “ a hundred years in the life of a person or an institution ”; and that is what A.D. 1915 is going to be. Not in the life of a person, no, no; a leap from Madison to Wilson would transcend human capabilities; in the life of an Institution, that is it; because assuredly, after a full hundred years of publication without the missing of a single number, that is what THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW has come to be.

Would that it were the person at that! He would be William the First of THE REVIEW, founder and editor, as another became William the Second fifty years later—a teething period well remembered by his living successor. The one was a Tudor, the other a Howells, as names go, both Welsh by descent, and followed, conformably to historical tradition, after another half-century, by a Stuart, whose name also, we suspect, would have been William if he had discovered a circulation worth while.

William the Second is still with us and presently will address you upon the Fascinating Vicissitudes of an Editor in Boston, or something like That. We, in common with all humankind, are glad he is here because, beyond any one else, he continually and with dogged persistence refreshes our minds and keeps them young. But upon second thought regret at the not untimely departure of William the First (in 1832) becomes less poignant. We find upon inspection that he prefaced his first article in the first number of this REVIEW with these carefully selected words:

[The Editor, in making some researches in the history of North America, was induced, for his own convenience, to form a *catalogue raisonné* of

works relating to it. As this may be of some utility to persons engaged in similar pursuits, and not wholly uninteresting to others, he means," etc., etc.]

And then he begins:

*"Virgo Triumphans, or Virginia in generall; but the south part thereof in particular; including the fertile Carolana, and the no less excellent island of Roanok, richly and experimentally valued."*

Which reminds us so pungently of *Arma virumque cano, Trojæ qui primus ab oris* that we fear that William the First might find modern expression in his great REVIEW out of step, so to speak, and disapprove; and, if so, naturally we should worry.

But what we started to say, partly with intent to convey valuable information and partly for advertising purposes, is that the Centennial Celebration of this American Institution called THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW is going to be worth heeding. Nearly every member of the big "REVIEW Family," comprising former distinguished contributors, has welcomed the opportunity to say what is in his mind about whatever interests him chiefly.

Then there will appear many reproductions of essays and the like from numbers published scores of years ago, and portraits of former editors and other good men, and facsimiles of odd pages and yet more peculiar verses, and—but we must not hold up the regular procession longer.

The fact, however, should not be overlooked that *now*—*i. e.*, before the January number shall be published—is the time to begin to prepare to get ready to suggest to your friends to *subscribe*—for THE REVIEW? no, no—to the doctrine of Benevolence, Philanthropy, and True Helpfulness, to wit:

What *A* proposes to *B* that *B* might well do for *C*.